

Notice of Allowability	Applicant No. 09/576,297 Examiner William C. Choi	Applicant(s) MISAKA, MAKOTO Art Unit 2873
-------------------------------	--	--

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to Amendment B filed 8/29/03.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17 and 60-71.
- The drawings filed on 23 May 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None of the:
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**.

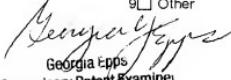
- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____
 - including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |


 Georgia Epps
 Supervisory Patent Examiner
 Technology Center 2800

Allowed Claims: 1-17 and 60-71.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed combination of limitations to warrant a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses and wherein no lens is present between a negative lens located on the most object side of the first lens unit and a second negative lens.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 4, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses and wherein, during variation of magnification from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end, said first through fourth lens units move as claimed.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 61, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses and wherein the second and fourth lens units move in unison with each other during variation of magnification.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 62, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses and wherein the fourth lens unit comprises a negative lens and a positive lens, and has at least one aspheric surface.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 63, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses and wherein the fourth lens unit has a plastic aspheric lens.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 64, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses and wherein the second through fourth lens units comprise the claimed lenses.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 65, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses and wherein the first lens unit has two negative lenses at the most object side and moves during variation of magnification.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 66, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens as claimed, specifically satisfying the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes of the claimed lenses

and wherein the first lens unit comprises three lenses including two negative lenses at the most object side.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CITATION OF RELEVANT PRIOR ART

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Endo (U.S. 6,618,198 B1) is being cited herein to show a zoom lens comprising some of the structural limitations of that of the claimed invention, but does not specifically meet the conditions regarding the Abbe numbers and refractive indexes.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Choi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3100. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from about 9:00 am to 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (703) 308-4883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

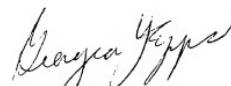
Application/Control Number: 09/576,297
Art Unit: 2873

Page 5

305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-
0956.

(W.C.)
William Choi
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2873
September 30, 2003


Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800